

REMARKS

In the amendment presented above, the Applicants have addressed the objections to the claims and the rejections of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph pointed to by the Examiner. With regard to the use of the word "substantially" in claims 1-4, 7, 8, 16, and 28-32, Applicants respectfully assert that it is commonplace to use such language in claims. In the present application, this term denotes slight variations in the shape and dimensions of features of the block.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1-17, 19, and 28-33 under 35 USC 103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,943 to Morgan et al. ("Morgan"), or U.S. Patent No. 3,374,917 to Troy ("Troy"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,833,465 to Jarzewiak ("Jarzewiak"), Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to further define the invention. More particularly, the toy building block has two pairs of face panels. The two panels of one pair each have male gender formation means comprising at least two studs. The two panels of the other pair each have female gender formation means comprising at least two sockets. **Each panel with the male gender formation means (at least two studs) is disposed opposite a panel with female gender formation means (at least two sockets).** The sockets and studs are interference-fit engageable for connecting adjacent blocks in a variety of configurations (including a face panel aligned configuration and a face panel overlap configuration). In addition, the two pairs of face panels define a unitary wall around the toy building block. In Morgan, the block has a single projection or recess on each face. In Jarzewiak, the block has projections and

recesses that are on only two faces of the block, with there being blank faces on the other block faces. In Troy, the opposing faces of the block have a single projection or recess (Fig. 1), both a single projection and a single recess (Fig. 5), two projections and one recess (Fig. 6) or two recesses and one projection (Fig. 6). Thus, nowhere does Morgan, Jarzewiak and Troy teach or suggest a toy building block having respective "male gender" panels with at least two studs disposed opposite respective "female gender" panels with at least two sockets as recited in the claim 1. Because Morgan, Jarzewiak and Troy, and any combination thereof, fail to teach or suggest important features of amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is patentable over the cited art.

Dependent claims 2-16 and 28-36 are patentable over Morgan, Jarzewiak and Troy for those reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1, for which they respectfully depend, and for reciting additional features that are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Applicants have also added new claims 37-53. These claims recite that "the studs and sockets on male and female gender face panels are spaced from one another by a distance of substantially $2x$, where x is a distance between an edge of the panel and a nearest extremity of a respective stud or socket." Nowhere does the prior art teach or suggest these features. The Examiner seems to point to Jarzewiak as providing this feature. However, in Jarzewiak, the distance between the studs/recesses is much greater

than 2x the distance between the edge and the nearest extremity of a stud/recess. Thus,
Applicants respectfully submit that such claims are patentable over the prior art.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for
allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain
outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the
case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



David S. Jacobson
Reg. No. 39,235
Attorney for Applicant(s)

GORDON & JACOBSON, P.C.
65 Woods End Road
Stamford, CT 06905
voice: (203) 329-1160
fax: (203) 329-1180
email: davidj@gordonjacobson.com

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